

BORDER EAGLE

Laughlin Air Force Base ♦ Texas

54th Year ♦ No.10 ♦ March 10, 2006

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Afghan aid

More than 40 Airmen serving in Afghanistan participate in an "Adopt-A-Village" program



Under the hood

Laughlin's Auto Craft Center not just a "do-it-yourself" operation



Mission Capable Rates

T-1
92.1%

T-6
94.1%

T-38
85.0%

AEF Stats

30 Deployed
4 Back in 30 days
2 Leaving in 30 days

Team XL's last
DUI
Feb. 11, 2006
It's a crime!



Photo by Senior Airman Austin M. May

Members of the 47th Medical Group combine efforts to move the last remaining sections of the unit from temporary buildings into the renovated medical facility here.

Renovations complete, med group moves back in

By Senior Airman
Austin M. May
Staff writer

The last of the 47th Medical Group sections operating from temporary facilities behind the group moved into their renovated building Thursday.

The two-phase renovation project began in October 2004 and was intended to downgrade the medical group from a bedded facility to a basic clinic, said Chief Master Sgt. Robert Hernandez, 47th MDG superintendent.

The building was reno-

vated to allow for a more appropriate use of the available space, said Chief Hernandez.

"Having all those rooms with beds was not logical," he said. "It was just a waste of space basically. By renovating the facility, we're able to maximize the use of the building's square footage."

The changes should improve clinic's efficiency in handling patients' needs, according to 1st Lt. Kathryn Sprotte, 47th Medical Group practice manager.

"Having all of these sections back in the actual

medical facility will improve many services the medical group has to offer," she said. "For example, there will now be a referral management center that patients can actually go into and follow-up on or ask questions concerning medical consults or referrals. We sincerely appreciate all our patients' time and understanding as we strive to more effectively and efficiently serve you."

About 60 percent of the building's approximately 79,000 square feet was completely gutted and rebuilt,

said Ted Conner, 47th MDG chief of logistics.

According to Chief Hernandez, in addition to creating administrative office spaces, the changes to the facility included adding modern wallpaper and tiling, which greatly improved the medical group's appearance.

Other improvements to the building included an irrigation system and zeroscaping, a beautification process that uses indigenous

See "Renovation," page 4

AF stronger when acting as family



Commander's Corner

By Lt. Col. David Stamos
86th Flying Training Squadron
commander

In 1979, the song "We are Family" climbed all the way to number one on the music charts. That same year, the Pittsburgh Pirates used the song to rally themselves and their fans to a World Series victory over the Baltimore Orioles.

Veteran Pirate first baseman, Willie Stargell, said years later that the nickname bestowed on that team – "The Family," from the Sister Sledge song, "We Are Family" – wasn't a misnomer. "We won, we lived and we enjoyed as one," Stargell said. "We molded together dozens of different individuals into one working force. We were products of different races, were raised in different income brackets, but in the clubhouse and on the field, we were one."

Just as the Pittsburgh Pirates were able to succeed by

becoming family, so our Air Force succeeds when we remember that we are also a family. From the seemingly innocent conversation at the office to remembering the significant events in each other's lives, the Air Force grows stronger when we act as a family. Caring for each member of the family is key.

I had the opportunity to celebrate my 30th birthday in Turkey on a deployment to Operation Northern Watch. My wife sent two cakes and some gifts to some of my fellow pilots during the deployment. Imagine my surprise when the whole deployed squadron turned out to throw me a small surprise birthday party. It was one of the most memorable birthdays I've ever had. My loving family back home arranged for my Air Force family to celebrate my birthday on the road.

Just as the successes of each member of a family make the family stronger, when an Air Force member succeeds, the whole Air Force succeeds. Selection for promotion or school or receiving a well-earned award are events that make our Air Force family stronger and are a true cause for celebration for the whole Air Force family.

Unfortunately, just as when as

someone in the family has troubles, the family suffers; when one of our Air Force family members gets injured by carelessness or violates trust by discipline action, the whole Air Force family suffers. We lose an important member of the team and are forced to exert valuable time that could be focused on training or helping others. Attention is diverted from the mission, and these distractions cause us to lose sight of our purpose.

The units that succeeded the most in my career have been those that resembled this close-knit family. It's the people that make an assignment, not the location. Grand Forks Air Force Base turned out to be one of my most rewarding assignments. As a new squadron, we won the trophy for the outstanding refueling squadron in Air Mobility Command two years in a row because of the way the unit bonded.

We must act as a family to succeed. From helping with meals when someone's spouse just had a baby to giving a co-worker a ride after they've had too much to drink, the care we give each member of the Air Force family leads to our success.

Ten minutes as a middle-aged crash-test dummy

**By Master Sgt.
Orville Desjarlais Jr.**
Air Force Print News

It was unsettling to know that until Feb. 28 the only two things that had ridden in the world's first multi-person rescue basket had been Lois and Adam, two test mannequins from the 746th Test Squadron at Holloman Air Force Base, N.M.

Lois is an acronym for Lowest Occupant in Service. She's the lighter of the two. Adam means Advanced Dynamic Anthropomorphic Mannequin. And Fearless is my middle name, unless I'm dangling from a helicopter 150 feet above treetops — in

which case the "F" stands for freaked-out-crying-little-girl.

The reason the Air Force uses mannequins of different weight is because scientists don't know which one will be knocked around the most. In the business of flying around, it could be either. In this case, flying in the Heli-Basket proved to be an easy assignment for the two crash-test dummies, which are accustomed to wood-jarring ejection seat testing on lightning-swift speed sleds.

Lois and Adam flew at nearly 100 mph in the basket and barely registered anything on their complex matrix of test sensors. Scientists from the Air Force Research Laboratory Human Effectiveness

Directorate at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, probably would've gained more sensor data had the two been involved in a soapbox derby crash.

That didn't mean a thing to me. After all, I have human sensors that have been finely honed since 1961. Given the right circumstances, I can laugh and cry within seconds of each emotion, like when a trophy-mounting fish slips my line.

When the New York Air National Guard's 106th Rescue Wing asked for human sacrifices, I mean volunteers, Senior Master Sgt. Diana Manno

See "Mannequin," page 3

BORDER EAGLE

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Deadlines

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, 298-5262. **Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.**

Submissions can be e-mailed to: olufemi.owolabi@laughlin.af.mil or bordereagle@laughlin.af.mil.

Advertising

Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald by 4 p.m. each Friday at 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611.

Actionline

Col. Tod Wolters
47th Flying Training
Wing commander

**Call 298-5351 or email
actionline@laughlin.af.mil**



One way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels is the Commander's Actionline.

Before you call in or e-mail an Actionline, please try to work out the problem through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

When calling or e-mailing the Actionline, please keep messages brief and remember to include your name and phone number so you are assured of a timely personal reply. Contact information is also useful when additional information is needed to pursue your inquiry.

We will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general

interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.

Below are some useful telephone numbers that may be helpful when working your issue with a base agency.

AAFES	298-3176
Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299

Clinic	298-6311
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
EEO	298-5879
FWA hotline	298-4170
Housing	298-5904
Information line	298-5201
Legal	298-5172
MEO	298-5400
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810

Question: Although I don't usually complain, I am concerned about the changes happening at the golf course. Greens fees have gone up, club storage fees went up 28 percent, twilight golf fees went up, and I can no longer pay for half a cart when I golf alone early in the morning.

I understand changing prices, but twilight golf used to allow more time for play. As it is now, the start

time is 4:30 p.m. and the club closes at 6:30 p.m. instead of dark as in the past.

Why do I need to pay higher fees for fewer hours of play time and reduced services?

Response: Our non-appropriated funds council recently conducted a thorough review of all fees assessed at the golf course and found the fees had not changed during the last five

years. At that time, new golf course initiatives were designed to include both a 9-hole fee and a twilight fee that is 35 percent lower than the 9-hole fee.

The start time for twilight golf is still based upon sunset. Twilight golf begins two and a half hours prior to closing, which is based on expected sunset. Each week, new twilight golf start times are posted in the pro shop.

There was a short period with policy that single players were charged

a whole cart fee, but that policy has been changed. Now, single players playing alone are only charged a half-cart fee. We highly encourage players who play in groups to share carts so we use our resources most efficiently.

Thank you for bringing this to our attention. We hope we've cleared this up for everyone and look forward to seeing you on the course.

Mannequin, from page 2

raised her hand because she wanted to be a part of history.

"They asked for live dummies, and that's me," joked the airfield management superintendent.

Deep in her heart, she thrives for excitement. She's an adrenalin junkie who likes to ride roller coasters and once plummeted down a thrill ride perched atop the highest casino in Las Vegas, Nev. She looks like the type who would even shop at the commissary on a military payday.

Before the human experiment, she said she was not scared — that being naïve about the project was a good thing.

And she was correct. The more I delved into the Heli-Basket's history, the more I was concerned. Not for my safety, mind you. After all, Air Force professionals were conducting the test. But for the fact that it wasn't originally designed for human transport.

John Tollenare said he invented it to stabilize helicopter loads, such as plywood, which catch the wind and become unstable while being transported. But in June 2003, the Army certified its use for hauling cargo. He said it was a natural progression to try to certify the Heli-Basket to carry people.

Everyone involved in the test agreed that the Heli-Basket would have been useful during hurricanes Katrina and Rita. With a little luck, the rescue basket may get certified for human transport before the next hurricane slams into one of America's coastlines — but that is extremely wishful thinking. The process takes time. But the first step in that process is to get people like Sergeant Manno and myself in the basket and in the air.

When Sergeant Manno's time came to fly and she walked to the basket, her helmet chinstrap became troublesome. Then her tinted goggles came loose and

pararescuemen tried to piece her back together like Humpty Dumpty, but the helicopter was churning up the wind while it hovered overhead and she ended up missing the flight.

"I became all discombobulated," she said.

It was her hope to become the first woman to ride in the Heli-Basket. That honor went to Staff Sgt. Nicole Caruso, a 103rd Rescue Squadron supply technician. It wasn't the first time women in the 106th Rescue Wing have entered the history books. Capt. Norma Parsons-Erb from the 106th was first woman to become a member of the National Guard.

Then it was my turn. As I strode to the basket on the third and final test flight, I wasn't interested in making history, although I would have the distinct honor of being the first Air Force military journalist between the ages of 40 and 45 from Montana to ride in the Heli-Basket.

Once in the basket, I saw the seatbelts were exactly the same type used in military aircraft. I've used them for 22 years, but on this particular day I forgot how to hook the two ends together.

Like Sergeant Manno, I had become "discombobulated."

With the wind whipping around, the helicopter noise

crashing down from above and the profound sense of urgency, I was fumbling around with the seatbelt like an untrained monkey. A pararescueman had to buckle me in like a 4-year-old in a car seat.

Just about the time I remembered that I had forgotten to wear adult-sized Pampers, we flipped up into the air like the feather at the conclusion of Forrest Gump.

Over the treetops we soared. Through the wires of the cage, I had an unobstructed 360-degree view as we flew about 150 feet above the trees. Or maybe it was a 720-degree view — counting the scene above and below, too.

The pararescueman, who had radio contact with the aircrew, would get our reactions as we flew 10 mph, then 20 mph, then 30 mph and finally 40 mph. Each time we all gave him a thumbs-up sign. It was like a magic carpet ride, except I was in a metal cage dangling from a helicopter — freezing.

At the end of the 10-minute ride, I agreed with Sergeant Manno, who said, "The ride was exciting, but I felt safe and secure in (the basket)."

I, too, was glad it turned out to be a nice safe ride. And, the F in my middle name can remain Frances — not freaked-out-crying-little girl.

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Airmen reach out to help Afghan village

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Jennifer Redente
455th Air Expeditionary Wing
public affairs

More than 40 Airmen at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, recently visited a local village and gave basic necessities, donated by people throughout the world, to about 500 Afghans.

Members of the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing drove seven kilometers to the village of Gadia to hand out clothes, shoes, hygiene items, toys and school supplies, said Senior Master Sgt. Diana Brown, 455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron first sergeant.

"A warm blanket, or a sweater, can make a big difference to some of the people who live in the villages here," she said.

"None of this could have been

possible without the cooperation of those who sent the donations and those who organized the event," said Master Sgt. James Biggerstaff, 455th Expeditionary Mission Support Group first sergeant.

Airmen assigned to the wing came together to spend three hours separating goods by gender and age into more than 400 bags. The materials were donated by servicemembers who have served in previous rotations, and by churches and other civic organizations.

"Most of the donations are sent by various organizations and groups through word of mouth after Airmen return to their home stations," Sergeant Biggerstaff said.

"We get about 20 boxes of assorted goods per week from those who support the Adopt-A-Village here," he said.

It's a very rewarding experience to participate in the program, Sergeant

Brown said. She encourages everyone to take the opportunity to be involved, whether it's donating, sorting or handing out clothes.

"I was very honored to be part of the ongoing mission to improve relations with the local community and provide humanitarian aid," Sergeant Brown said.



Above: Staff Sgt. Karen Bishop, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing, gives clothes to a young girl from the village of Gadia, Afghanistan. Left: Tech. Sgt. John Strothenke, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing, hands a village elder a bag of clothing during the visit. Airmen with the wing distributed more than 400 bags of clothes, school supplies, hygiene items and toys to the residents of the village.



Renovation, from page 2

plants which require very little water, said Mr. Conner. Also, the driveway to the loading dock was extended, and a field-response vehicle shelter was built, he said.

The project required much cooperation and adaptation from both the medical group staff as well as the patients they serve, Chief Hernandez said.

"The staff handled the challenges extremely well," he said. "The patients

did, too. It was a daily challenge to make sure safety measures were in place, and we all adapted as well as possible."

The end of the renovation project is not necessarily the end of the improvements the medical group intends to make to its facility, Chief Hernandez said.

"Plans are in the works to update the furniture in the clinic," he said. "We'd also like to replace the roof, add an electronic marquee, and eventually put a whole new face on the outside of

the building."

Mr. Conner attributes the success of the project to the help they received from various contractors.

"Civil engineering and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers were heavily involved and gave us all the support necessary to put the project together," he said.

The medical group's grand opening is scheduled to take place Wednesday.

Newslines

OSC gardening social

The Laughlin Officers' Spouses' Club will hold its gardening social at 9:30 a.m. March 21 at Club XL. Cost is \$10 per person. R.S.V.P. by Thursday.

Last names A through L, call 298-7005, last names M through Z, call 298-7194 or go to www.laughlinosc.org. This event is sponsored by the 84th Flying Training Squadron.

Hazmat disposal

The hazardous materials management office is accepting hazmats for the Laughlin household free issue program. They accept unwanted, but still usable, cleaning and automotive products, pesticides, painting supplies, lawn and garden products, flammables and other hazardous materials for the base population to reuse.

In addition to saving on costly or improper disposal methods, residents save on the price of items they would normally pay at a store. Drop off times for hazmats are from 8 to 11 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

If moving or PCSing, call to make other arrangements. Also, stop by building 75 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday to check out free issue inventory before buying at the store. Points of contact are Dena Shadwick and Carol Rodriguez at 298-4351.

Enlisted education records

Enlisted members who have recently completed a college degree can have their records updated to reflect their current level of education. Members should bring all necessary paperwork, including their degree or certificate, to the education office. Officer records cannot be updated locally. Call 298-4726 for details.

AF selects three XLers to SMSgts

Congratulations to our new senior master sergeants, great job!

Three XLers were selected for promotion to senior master sergeants during an Air Force promotion list released Wednesday.

They are:

Master Sgts. Robin Rutzke, 47th Medical Group, Daniel Comer, 47th Operations Group, and Karla Jordan, former XLER with the 47th OG.

The Air Force selected 1,303 master sergeants for promotion to senior master sergeant for an 8.63 percent selection rate. Last year's selection rate was 9.19 percent. The average score for those selected was 661.37 with an average time in grade and time in service of 4.42 and 20.22 years respectively.

According to Air Force officials, "Your promotion is based on the potential you possess to lead in your career field in these challenging times. We look forward to the great things you will do for our Air Force in your new capacity as a senior master sergeant."

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Capt. Russell Toro
C-130 (ANG)
Puerto Rico ANG



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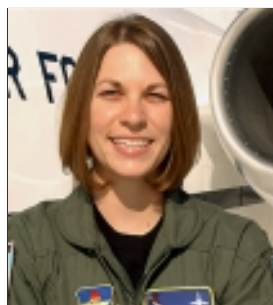
Capt. Matthew Ringlein
C-130 (ANG)
California ANG



1st Lt. Neal Byrne III
A-10 (ANG)
Mass. ANG



2nd Lt. Edmund Ballew
C-21
Ramstein AB, Germany



2nd Lt. Kate Benson
T-1
Laughlin AFB



2nd Lt. Ivan Blackwell
C-17
Charleston AFB, S.C.



2nd Lt. Trent Brower
T-6A
Laughlin AFB



2nd Lt. Joseph Butters
T-6A
Laughlin AFB



2nd Lt. Christopher Carr
KC-135
Grand Forks AFB, N.D.



2nd Lt. Catherine Christ
KC-135
Fairchild AFB, Wash.



2nd Lt. Craig Christ
KC-135
Fairchild AFB, Wash.



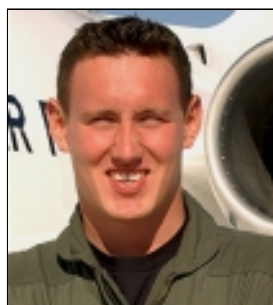
2nd Lt. Jennifer Cilia
C-17
Charleston AFB, S.C.



2nd Lt. Joao Conde
Undesignated
Portuguese Air Force



2nd Lt. Bruno Farinha
Undesignated
Portuguese Air Force



2nd Lt. Jeffrey Greensfelder
C-17
McChord AFB, Wash.



2nd Lt. Christopher High
F-16
Luke AFB, Ariz..



2nd Lt. Matthew Hood
C-17
Hickam AFB, Hawaii



2nd Lt. Jeromy Kimbrough
C-17
Charleston AFB, S.C.



2nd Lt. Brad Montgomery
C-17
McChord AFB, Wash.



2nd Lt. Nick Motlagh
KC-135
McConnell AFB, Kan.



2nd Lt. Bartholomew Murphy
C-17
McGuire AFB, N.J.



2nd Lt. Earl Schaller
B-52
Barksdale AFB, La.



2nd Lt. Phillip Silva Jr.
C-17
McChord AFB, Wash.



2nd Lt. Bradley Young
F-15C
Tyndall AFB, Fla.

Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Charles Baldwin, Air Force Chief of Chaplains, addresses Laughlin members during the National Prayer Luncheon here March 1.



Courtesy photo

Base hosts National Prayer Luncheon

By Chaplain (Capt.) Marshall MacClellan
47th Flying Training Wing

Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Charles Baldwin called on Laughlin members to “Embrace the Spirit,” as he, the Air Force Chief of Chaplains, spoke at Team XL’s National Prayer Luncheon March 1.

Basing his theme on the play “Phantom of the Opera,” Chaplain Baldwin identified the “phantoms” that plague life today as terrorism, crime and personal struggles. His message called for an ‘embracing of the Spirit’ that

helps us find hope. “Often we seek success when we were made for significance,” said Chaplain Baldwin. Celebrating the diverse faith traditions at Laughlin, Sacred Texts from Jewish, Muslim and Christian scriptures were read by students, 2nd Lts. Dean Neistat and Ali Jivanjee, and an instructor pilot, 1st Lt. Catherine Gutierrez.

Chaplain Baldwin graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1969 and Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training at Laughlin in 1970. He flew EC-121s and later flew the HH-53 as a rescue helicop-

ter pilot during the Vietnam War. As a member of the special staff of the Chief of Staff, he advises on all matters pertaining to the religious and moral welfare of Air Force people.

Also, he is responsible for establishing an effective total chaplain program to meet the religious needs of all members of the Air Force.

As chief, he is the senior pastor for a combined active-duty, Guard, Reserve and civilian force of more than 850,000 people who serve at approximately 1,300 locations in the United States and overseas. He leads an Air Force Chaplain Service of approximately 2,200 chaplains and enlisted support people from the active and Air Reserve components. As a member of the Armed Forces Chaplains Board, he and other members advise the Secretary of Defense and Joint Chiefs of Staff on religion, and ethical and quality-of-life concerns.

AFAF kicks off at Laughlin

By Staff Sgt. Michele Stewart
47th Comptroller Squadron

It’s that time of year again; the Air Force Assistance Fund campaign is about to kick off. The 2006 campaign will run from March 17 through April 28.

“This is an excellent opportunity to help our active duty, reserve, guard and retired Airmen and their surviving spouses and families,” said 1st Lt. Anthony Thompson, base AFAF project officer.

Airmen may voluntarily contribute to four different charities such as:

■ The Air Force Aid Society, which provides worldwide emergency assistance to members and their families, sponsors educational assistance programs, and offers a variety of base/community enhancement programs that impact member and family welfare.

■ The Air Force Enlisted Villages’ primary mission is to offer housing and financial assistance to widows of enlisted

Air Force members.

■ The Air Force Village is dedicated to excellent retirement living for military officers who served honorably and their spouses, with access to continuing health care. Their priority is retired Air Force officer widows and widowers in need of financial assistance.

■ The General and Mrs. Curtis E. Lemay Foundation helps widows of Air Force retirees, both officers and enlisted, through financial assistance.

In 2005, Laughlin members contributed more than \$19,000 in monetary donations and received more than \$45,000 in assistance from the Air Force Aid Society. The return aid came in the form of emergency assistance, education and community-enhancement programs.

Contact your squadron representative with any questions. Base members can also contact the base project officer, 1st Lt. Anthony Thompson, at 298-5509 or the assistant project officer, Staff Sgt. Michele Stewart at 298-5215.

Laughlin offers extended duty child care to members

Extended Duty Care is a program that enables Air Force members and civilians whose duty hours have been extended, to have support for child care.

It is offered in Family Care homes at no extra cost to the parents.

Extended Duty Care circumstances include temporary shift change, unplanned longer duty day, unplanned weekend duty, and short term TDY.

The hours are not limited, but it is a short term program. To enroll your child in the program you must provide documentation from your supervisor of your extended duty hours.

This program is available to active duty, Department of Defense civilians assigned to the base, spouses of active duty whose spouse is deployed or TDY, Air Force Reserve or Air National Guards on active duty.

The following are the types of care offered.

PCS Care:

A family may use up to 20 hours of care per child when relocating to a new

assignment. Certificates are issued by the Family Support Center to active duty members or spouses on PCS orders and must be used within 60 days.

Volunteer Care:

Volunteering at Laughlin or in the Del Rio Community entitles you to 20 hours of care per family per week. These certificates are also issued by the Family Support Center and must be used in licensed FCC homes unless they are completely full in which case you may use the CDC.

Returning Home Care:

Returning Home Care provides child care to Active Duty, Air National Guard and AF Reserve when returning home from a deployment. It is for children under 12 years of age for a total of 16 hours per child. Also available is the R and R care if a members get R & R halfway through their TDY and take it at Laughlin. It is also 16 hours per child.

For more information on any of these programs you can call the FCC Office at 298-5631.



Senior Airman Adam Battin
Personnel Security Specialist
47th Security Forces Squadron



Photo by Senior Airman Olufemi Owolabi

Miss an issue of The

BORDER EAGLE?

Back-issues are available online at
<http://www.laughlin.af.mil/BorderEagle/BorderEagle.htm>

Hometown: Larned, Kan.

Family: Wife, Trisha and son, Devin

Time at Laughlin: 33 months

Time in military service: 8 years

Greatest accomplishment: Marrying my beautiful wife, Trisha

Hobbies: Watching sports and spending

time with my family

Bad habits: Procrastination

Favorite movie: Any sports-related movie

If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why?: I would like to spend an hour with any former president. I would want to understand what they think about running

an entire country for four or eight years. Taking in their advice about making the many choices they made each day that would affect billions of people, asking them what influenced them to make that choice and how they didn't crack under the stress of running the country.

Features



Auto Crafts Center



(Above) Auto Hobby Shop assistant manager, Ronnie Hill, and customer Simon Federico discuss a complete transmission fluid exchange, other services provided, and safety requirements of the shop. The shop ensures the use of safety stands is mandatory when a vehicle is jacked up. The staff also ensure safety glasses are available and issued upon request, and customers are not allowed to wear sandals while working. (Left) The Auto Hobby Shop's data automation specialist, Tina Henegar, receives a phone call and records the appointment date at the shop here Tuesday. Customers are advised to schedule appointments no later than 8 a.m. on the appropriate day.



enter not just for hobbyists

Story and photos by Senior
Airman Olufemi Owolabi
Editor

The base Auto Crafts Center offers variety of equipment for use and is open to all military and Department of Defense civilians.

The Auto Crafts Center, Building 525, is open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays and 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and closed on all holidays.

According to manager, Bill Morris, the center offers facilities and equipment for customers' use. The facilities provided include: eleven outside covered patio-type work stalls, four outside lifts, a welding shop with acetylene, arc, Mig and Tig and plasma

cutter.

"People can now weld on aluminium," said Ronnie Hill, assistant manger, "but they must have previous experience in order to be qualified to use the welding equipment."

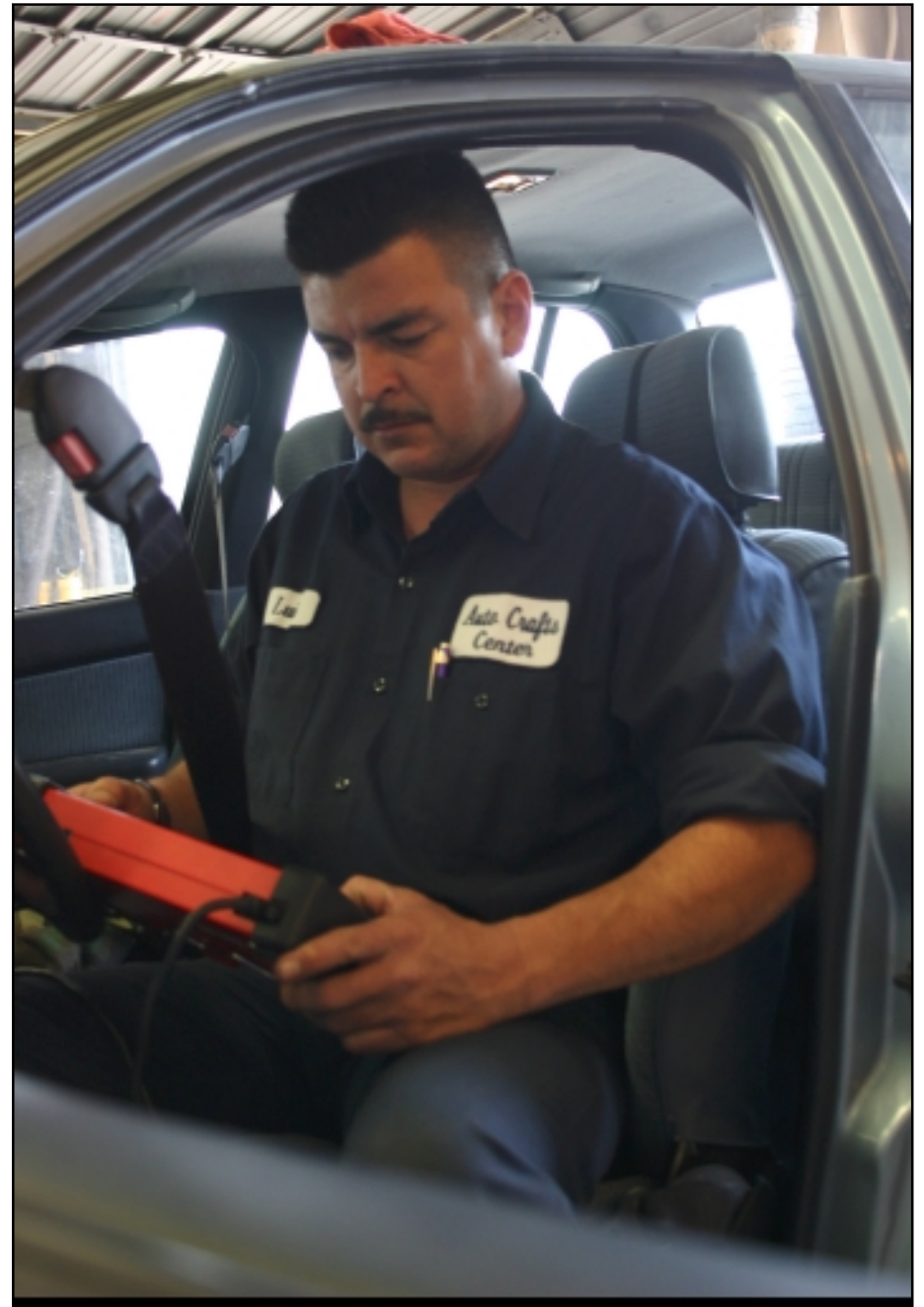
The Auto Crafts Center can perform most minor maintenance work such as clutches, brake repair, oil changes, etc.

The center is also a recycling satellite collection point for motor oil, antifreeze, brake fluid, scrap metal, gasoline and batteries.

Among other things, the Auto Crafts Center conducts free maintenance classes at least once per quarter, Mr. Morris said.

Hands-on classes conducted include: front and rear brake repair, tune-ups, oil changes, spouse survival and basic welding.

For more information on the Auto Crafts Center or the services provided, call 298-5844.



(Above) Luis Jimenez, a mechanic at the Auto Crafts Center, uses a diagnostic scanning machine to diagnose a check-engine light for a customer here.



(Left) Armando Yanez, automobile servicer, checks the alternator of a customer's car here Tuesday. Apart from mechanical jobs, the Auto Crafts Center maintains a three-bay car wash. Two of the wash bays are standard size. The car wash is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For more information on services offered by the center or to schedule an appointment, call 298-5844. The center performs many routine services, listed right, as well as space for do-it-yourself auto work.

Services offered by the Auto Crafts Center

- Tune-ups
- Brake repair
- Air-conditioning service/repair
- Front end repair and alignments
- Computer engine diagnosis
- Pull computer codes
- Oil changes
- Tire mount and demounting
- Tire balancing and rotation
- Fuel injection service and repair
- Cooling system repair
- Electrical repair
- Strut/shocks
- Charging system checkout/repair
- Complete carbon and fuel injector cleaning
- Transmission fluid exchange

Amputee Airman overcomes cancer, maintains athletic lifestyle

Story and photo by 1st
Lt. Marnee A.C. Losurdo
512th Airlift Wing
public affairs

In 2005, he ran the New York City Marathon and skied down the Rockies. The fact he has one leg isn't slowing him down.

Tech. Sgt. Matthew Profitt is an active sportsman — the 38-year-old reservist plays racquetball, bobsleds, canoes, cycles and runs. But, three years ago the 512th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron guidance and control section technician wasn't sure he'd be alive today.

In June 2003, while activated a second year to support the war on terrorism, Sergeant Profitt said he noticed an ulcer on his right shin.

"It wouldn't heal," he said.

This raised a flag for the sergeant because he had a noncancerous ulcer removed in the same area in 2002.

He wasn't as fortunate this time. At the Bethesda Naval Hospital, Bethesda, Md., a doctor biopsied the ulcer and diagnosed him with epithelioid sarcoma, a malignant soft tissue tumor that typically develops in tissues under the skin of the hands, forearms, feet, or lower leg.

He went to John Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, for a second opinion and the doctor recommended amputation to get the rare and aggressive cancer away from his body, he said.

"As soon as they told me, I was in shock," he recalled. "To be told it's malignant; that I have a 20 percent survival rate; and they have to

amputate. After leaving the hospital, I pulled over the side of the road and broke down."

Two weeks later Sergeant Profitt was on the operating table at Bethesda. His leg was amputated at mid-calf.

"I woke up and felt fine. Within three to four days I was up and moving around with a walker," he said.

There were several combat-veterans from Iraq recovering from war wounds while Sergeant Profitt was at the hospital.

"I made a lot of friends there," he said. "It made me realize I wasn't the only person going through this. Some people had three limbs missing. It was inspiring for me to see them overcome their experiences."

The sergeant was released to Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C., and within three weeks he was learning how to use an artificial limb, or prosthesis. There are a variety of prostheses for different activities. For example, Sergeant Profitt wears a flexible prosthesis, a C-Sprint, which absorbs impact when he runs.

It took him a month to learn how to walk again, but that was only the first battle in his war against cancer. After healing from his operation, Sergeant Profitt went through four months of chemotherapy sessions. He received his last checkup in October and is cancer free today.

The one thing Sergeant Profitt didn't worry about was his job, he said. A 2005 medical evaluation board recommended his continued service.

"Through it all, there was never any question

that I could come back here to my job," he said. "My unit, commander, first sergeant, and section chief would visit me and make sure I wasn't having any issues. They lent an ear and were there for support."

His supervisor, Senior Master Sgt. Fred Traute, the squadron avionics section chief, said he watched Sergeant Profitt's recovery and was impressed by his attitude.

"Through all of this, he maintained a positive outlook and was an inspiration to those who had knowledge of it," Sergeant Traute said. "He didn't walk around complaining about it."

A traumatic life situation can change a person's outlook on life. Sergeant Profitt's ordeal with cancer has him living every day like he's dying. The doctors gave him a one-in-five chance to survive five years from the surgery and chemotherapy, he said.

"It's changed me a lot. I'm a better person. I don't want to take a moment for granted or waste my days," he said. "I didn't want to be 60 or on my death bed saying I wish I went to Park City, or ran a marathon or bobsledded. I'm willing to try anything. I'm not afraid of failure."

He quit his job with his employer of 10 years and moved to Park City, Utah, this fall. He volunteers with Disabled Sports USA, the Challenged Athletes Foundation, and the National Abilities Center. These organizations fund sporting events and offer sports opportunities to people with disabilities. They also provide training and opportunities to potential U.S.

Paralympians. The U.S. Paralympics is a division of the U.S. Olympic committee.

"I know how important sports have been for me as far as goals and a sense of accomplishment. I want to transfer that to the kids," said Sergeant Profitt, who volunteers about seven hours a week assisting with the NAC skiing and bobsled programs.

"I recently worked with a 12-year-old amputee, and seeing him have the opportunity to go out on the slopes is rewarding," said the sergeant who works out three to four times a week. "I like to see

young people come back pumped up and smiling. It's an opportunity for them not to think about medical issues going on in their lives. It's so important for the psyche of people."

The 20-year Air Force veteran plans to retire in October.

However, his future career goals include getting a degree in teaching, or special education, and becoming more involved with the NAC, he said.

His long-term goal is to become a member of Utah's first disabled bobsled team for the 2014 U.S. Winter Paralympics.



Tech. Sgt. Matthew Profitt runs wearing a flexible prosthesis, a C-Sprint, which absorbs impact. In 2003, while activated at Dover Air Force Base, Del., supporting the war on terrorism, the reservist's leg was amputated when he was diagnosed with epithelioid sarcoma, a malignant soft tissue tumor. He is a 512th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron guidance and control section technician.

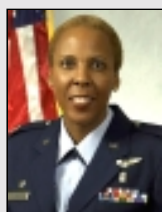


Courtesy photos



Conductin' live fire training....

The 47th Civil Engineer Squadron's and Del Rio fire departments conducted a Live Fire Training Feb. 27 and 28. The training was a joint venture to meet annual training requirements to keep all fire fighters proficient in Aircraft Firefighting Tactics. Seven Del Rio firefighters and 29 Laughlin fire fighters participated in the two-day training.



What's up Doc?

By Col. Laura Torres-Reyes
47th Medical Group
commander

Question: I read your answer about the proposed TRICARE enrollment increases and find it quite offensive for you to refer to this increase as "relatively modest changes."

For every increase like this, there is an offsetting and equal decrease in the standard of living for those who have served honorably. I am not sure you did the math on these "relatively modest changes."

I will use myself as an example, a retired E-7 with 21 years. An

increase from \$460 to \$1,400 represents going from paying \$1 out of every \$36 of my retirement pay for health coverage, to paying \$1 out of every \$12, more than a three-fold increase.

I'm not sure those numbers make sense, but I am sure even for an O-6 to have \$1 out of every \$12 of pre-tax pay taken from them by the government would reflect a significant decrease of the standard at which your family may live.

Another way of looking at it is that the former rate of \$460 reflects a portion of about a third of one month of retirement payments. This does not take into consideration the exorbitant dental coverage (\$94/month, and very few dentists who take the coverage), that is offered to our honored retirees.

But the new \$1,400 reflects one complete month of retirement pay (again pre tax) of the retirees benefit. Add the cost shares for office visits

and prescriptions, and you are well into several thousands of dollars of total cost, not just the \$1,400.

Suffice it to say taking one twelfth of a family budget (or 17 percent) is not a "relatively modest change." I will continue to lobby Congress to reverse this and to stop the continued assault on the benefits promised-earned and now denied.

I trust you can see how this can be quite a sensitive topic and offensive words like "relatively modest change" have way too much of an "ivory tower" ring to them.

Answer: You are absolutely correct that it was inappropriate and insensitive of me to use the term.

Please accept my sincere apology. As you have stated, there are significant changes that will financially impact many retirees under 65 who are on a fixed income and/or who have limited financial resources.

I publicly apologized at the Town Hall meeting Tuesday and hopefully provided important information that TRICARE beneficiaries can use for lobbying purposes.

As you've stated, these are only *proposed* benefits for sustaining the many healthcare benefits provided by DoD, and I applaud your efforts to stay fully engaged with your many options for voicing your opinion on this important issue.

For detailed information on the Sustaining the Benefit proposals, please stop by our TRICARE Service Center where we have several handouts that explain the proposals.

Again, thank you so much for your feedback!

You may contact Colonel Torres-Reyes by e-mail at laura.torres-reyes@laughlin.af.mil if you have a What's Up Doc? question.

Sportslines

Three-point shootout

A March Madness Three-Point Shootout will start at 10 a.m. Saturday at the Losano Fitness Center gym. Participants are asked to sign up at the fitness center. The event is open to Department of Defense identification cardholders 16 years old and up.

Jogging trail reopens

The jogging trail from Ribas-Dominicci Circle to the West gate is

open again during daylight hours only. The 47th Civil Engineer Squadron's construction in the area to add lighting will continue through mid-March.

Track closed for repairs

The base running track and football field are closed for renovations. Repairs should be complete in May, according to the fitness center staff.

Stop by the fitness center for a map of the various running paths on base to select alternate running locations.

Intramural basketball

Playoff results as of Wednesday

East Conference

Monday: OSS 41 MSS 27
Tuesday: OSS 47 CES 41
Wednesday: MSS 48 CES 46

East Conference finals

Results not available at press time

Thursday: OSS vs. MSS

Upcoming playoff games

6 p.m. at the Losano Fitness Center

West Conference

Monday: CCS1 vs LSI
Tuesday: 86th vs Monday's winner
Wednesday: Losers bracket

West Conference finals

Thursday: 6 p.m. at the fitness center



Photo by Master Sgt. Anthony Hill

The battle is on

Adrian Johnson (5) of the MSS intramural basketball team looks to make his move against Shawdale Ervin of OSS Monday at the Losano Fitness Center gym. OSS defeated MSS, 41 to 27, to win the first game of the 2006 base intramural basketball playoffs. The East and West Conference winners will play each other in the base championship game at 6 p.m. March 20.



Want an opportunity to participate in Air Force, Armed Forces, national and international sports events?

The All Air Force Sports Program offers that chance.

Ask your fitness center staff about it or visit www.p.afsv.af.mil/AFSports/AllAFSports.htm

SERVICES CALENDAR

(Laughlin's on-base prefix is 298.)

Arts & Crafts Center	5153
Auto Craft Center	5844
Cactus Lanes	5526/to go 4818
Child Development Center	5419
Club Amistad	5346
Club XL	5134
Dining Hall	5295
Fiesta Center	5474/5224
Fitness Center/Gym	5251/5326
Friendship Pool	4194
Leaning Pine (golf course)	5451
Losano Juice Bar	4640
Book Mark (library)	5119
Laughlin Manor (lodging)	5741/5163
Outdoor Recreation	5830
Silverwings (snack bar)	5661
Southwinds Marina	775-7800
Veterinary Clinic	5500
Youth Center	5343
Youth Center (school age)	4363

Specials and promotions

March 18 the Youth Center's **Creative Night** and the Child Development Center **Give Parents a Break** will be from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. Sign up now to reserve your spot.

Come and enjoy **Club XL's lunch specials** from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday. Lunch specials are \$7.95 and include fountain beverage, tea or coffee. Members First discount is \$1.

The Frame Craft Center has all your **military scrapbook supplies**. Make your military memories into something to share with family and friends.

Now taking sign-ups for **summer camp programs** at the Youth Center. Offering sign-ups for Theater Camp, Teen Aviation Camp, Parent/Teen Outdoor Adventure Camp. Deadlines are fast approaching, so call today for more information.

Enjoy **family bowling** at Cactus Lanes Bowling Center from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday. Costs are \$1.50 per game and 50 cents shoe rental.

The Fiesta Center is **seeking instructors** for dance, ballet, piano and tae kwon do lessons.

Club Amistad's **St. Patty's Day Party** is from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. March 17. The party is open to all active duty, DoD civilians, contractors and dependents.

Today

Story time begins at 10:30 a.m. at The Book Mark Library.

Saturday

St. Patrick's Day Bowling Tournament begins at noon at the Cactus Lanes Bowling Center. This is a 9-pin-no tap tournament. Cost is \$10 per

person.

Losano Fitness Center **3 point shootout** starts at 10 a.m. Open to all ID card holders 16 years old and up.

Leaning Pine Golf Course **free full swing golf clinic**. Children 6-16 years old from noon to 1 p.m. and adults 1 to 2 p.m.

Auto Craft Center **Free front brake class**. From 9 to 11 a.m., learn to remove and replace front disc pads, and remove and resurface the rotor assemblies.

Sunday

Club XL **Sunday Brunch** from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Cost for adults is \$12.95, kids 5 to 11 \$3.95, and kids 4 and younger are free.

Chess Tournament at the Fiesta Center begins at 1 p.m. At least 3 participants are needed in each category to play. Call for more details.

Wednesday

Come and enjoy a **Creole lunch special** at Cactus Lanes Bowling Center including red beans and rice, two sausage links, jalapeno cornbread and a 16 oz drink for \$5.95.

Thursday

Enjoy all-you-can eat fresh fried catfish, hushpuppies, homemade coleslaw and much more for \$10.95 at the **Club XL Low Country Fish Fry**. Members First discount is \$1.

AROUND TOWN

Chamber of Commerce	775-3551
Del Rio Council for the Arts	775-0888
National Park Service (local)	775-7491

The Upstagers will present **"Meshugga Nuns"** at 7 p.m. tonight and Saturday at the San Felipe Country Club. R.S.V.P must be made at The Emporium, Veranda, Simply Beautiful, Del Tex RV or the Firehouse.

An **International Hunting and Fishing Expo** will be held today through Sunday at La Macarena in Cd. Acuña, Mexico.

A **free program** by Printmaker Anna Pavlik, Amistad National Recreation Area's artist in residence, will be held today at the Firehouse. For details call 775-0888.

A **free guided bird walk** will be held at 8 a.m. March 18 at the Amistad National Recreation Area Visitor Information Center. Bring binoculars, bird books, water, and sturdy shoes. Call 775-7491 for details.

The Del Rio Council for the Arts and Firehouse Fantastics will present

"Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" at 7:30 p.m. Sunday at the Paul Poag Theatre. Tickets will be sold at the Firehouse or theater on the evening of the performance. For details call 775-0888.

Find other **area events** on the Chamber of Commerce website at <http://www.drchamber.com>, the Texas Parks and Wildlife site at <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/>, or the National Park Service website at <http://www.nps.gov/>.

CHAPEL EVENTS

Chapel 298-5111

Catholic

Mass - 5 p.m. Saturday; 9:30 a.m. Sunday; and 12:05 p.m. Monday to Friday
Reconciliation - 4:15 p.m. Saturday or by appointment
Religious Education - 11 a.m. Sunday
Choir - 6 p.m. Thursday
Rite of Christian Initiation - 7:30 p.m. Thursday

Protestant

Choir - 7 p.m. Wednesday
Contemporary worship - 9 a.m. Sunday in the base theater
General Worship - 11 a.m. Sunday

Jewish

Sabbath service - 6 p.m. Friday at chapel Fellowship Hall

Chaplain Staff

Wing chaplain:
-Chap. (Lt. Col.) Joseph Lim,
Roman Catholic
Protestant chaplains:
-Chap. (Capt.) Marshall MacClellan,
United Methodist Church
-Chap. (Capt.) Kenneth Fisher,
Liberty Baptist Fellowship

The Protestant Women of the Chapel holds **Ladies' Bible Studies** from 9 to 11 a.m. Wednesdays at the Fellowship Hall. A Ladies' Social is held every second Monday evening from 7 to 9 p.m. Call Farrah Gibb at 469-4014 for details.

The Protestant Men of the Chapel offers **Men's Bible Studies** 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays at 9016A Arantz and 7 a.m. Saturdays with breakfast at the base theater. Call 298-3405 or 298-4542.

The **ROCK** youth group meets 4:30 to 6 p.m. Sundays at the base Spiritual Education Center in the Fellowship Hall. For details, call Pete Gorczok at 298-5144.

Spiritual-growth lunches are offered at noon the first and third Tues-

day each month in the base theater and Wednesdays in the mission support squadron conference room.

Ecumenical Children's Choir meets from 6 to 7 p.m. Sundays at the base chapel.

ETCETERA...

The Laughlin Officers Spouses Club provides **educational scholarships** totaling \$10,000 each year to high school and adult student family members of United States military members and non-military applicants from the local community. The deadline for this year's applications is April 7.

Complete details and applications are available at www.laughlinosc.org. Scholarships will be awarded in May.

FAMILY SUPPORT

Family Support Center 298-5620

The next **Bundles for Babies** class will be held Wednesday. All classes are scheduled from 10 a.m. to noon in the Family Support Center conference room. Guest speakers cover topics such as nutrition, Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), daycare options, the Nursing Mom's Program, stress factors and costs. A baby bundle valued at more than \$60 will be given to all active-duty Air Force families. Call to sign up.

BAADD

Base Airmen Against Drunk Driving needs volunteer drivers, observers and dispatchers for both shifts this weekend from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. BAADD operates Friday and Saturday nights and on down days and holidays that are in conjunction with the weekend. To sign up call 298-5759 or 298-6435. BAADD is free and open to all base personnel. For a ride home, call 298-HOME, or 298-4663.

To submit items for publication on this page, e-mail submissions to bordereagle@laughlin.af.mil no later than 4:30 p.m. Thursday, one week prior to publication for consideration. Call 298-5988 with questions.

Border Eagle Classifieds

HOMES

'96 Cavalier Town and Country: 18 by 76-foot, three bed, two bath, two decks, carport, \$20,000 obo. Call (402) 880-1159.

For sale or rent: 1307 Pecan St: Four bedrooms, three baths, two-car carport, in South Del Rio, lots of shade, mature lawn with sprinkler system two-story brick, \$1,000 a month rent, \$142,500 purchase. Call 775-4086.

MISC. ITEMS

Chain link fence: Currently at 9023 McConnell St., \$175 obo. Call 734-1167.

Grille guard: Gray, for '99 to '04 Jeep Grand Cherokee, hardware included, \$225 obo. Call 734-8058.

Various items: Dining table, brown wood, round, with four chairs, \$20; Acer 77e 17-inch CRT monitor, \$10. Call 298-3198 or (931) 302-3328.

Laptop: Sony Vaio, used, 633mhz, 60GB hard drive, 256MB RAM, DVD-ROM, CD burner, recovery disks and more, \$550. Call 765-8093.

Various items: Digital piano, Yamaha, CLP-810S, full keyboard, weighted keys, \$700; seven-drawer Steelcase desk, \$30; five-drawer lateral file cabinet, \$30;

ProForm treadmill with incline, extended tread, folds upright, \$300. Call 298-1768.

Various items: Corner bar, china hutch, 12-piece china setting, black entertainment center, basketball hoop, patio set, bikes, Little Tykes picnic table, lawn mower. Call 734-5835 for prices.

Dining table: New, oak, with six padded chairs and large china hutch, \$1,100. Call 775-9200.

Various items: Whirlpool washer and dryer set, 1-year-old, \$400 obo; full-size bed, \$50. Call 298-3533 or 703-0876.

Various items: Tall backyard chain-link fence; rocking chair with ottoman; clothing for whole family; washer and dryer. Call 298-3207.

Canoe: 16-foot, Guide model by Old Town, red, excellent condition, includes car roof bumpers and paddles, \$525 obo. Call 298-7483.

Wheelchair: Like new, full-size, with leg extensions, folds up for transport, \$200. Call 774-0769.

PETS

Cat: Siamese, with kennel, food, trays and litter, free to a good home. Call 298-1756.

Iguana: With cage and all accessories, \$50. Call (478) 230-7281

VEHICLES

'95 Celebrity Status 180BR: Roomy, 18-foot, runs great, nice interior, 3.0L Mercruiser, low hours, \$7,500 obo. Call 765-9914.

'99 Mazda Miata: 71K miles, runs awesome, manual, convertible, CD player, \$6,000. Call (719) 650-7215.

'03 Chrysler: Town and Country Limited, blue, 37K miles, CD and DVD system, loaded, excellent condition, \$17,500. Call 778-6598 or 719-1756.

'01 BMW: Five-speed, steel blue, navigation and GPS, \$18,500. Call 298-3207.

'04 Suzuki motorcycle: Yellow and black, with helmet and gear. Call 298-3207.

'01 Ford F-250: XLT, 4-wheel drive, super crew, automatic, air conditioned, power steering, cruise control, 60K miles, \$19,500 obo. Call 298-2844 or 734-3720.

YARD SALES

8127B Hall: Friday to Sunday, 8 a.m. to noon. Furniture, bikes, trampoline, patio set, clothes, lawnmower. Call 734-5835.

922 Lago Vista: Saturday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Furniture, housewares. No kids' stuff. Call 775-5428

FREE Classified Ad Form

For one-time sale of personal property and pets by Laughlin employees and their family members. **Business ads are prohibited.** Home sales/rentals associated with a PCS move and yard sales are authorized; however, owners **must have the classified form signed by a member of the housing office staff prior to submission.** Forms should be filled out completely, including a description of the item for sale and dropped off at the Public Affairs office, Bldg. 338, or faxed to 298-5047. The deadline for submission or removal of ads is **4:30 p.m. Thursday**, one week prior to publication. If an ad is submitted by the deadline for the week, it will appear in the following week's Border Eagle. **Ads will not be taken on the phone, through BITC mail or e-mail.** Ads will appear in the paper until they are rotated out due to new ads. If an ad rotates out before it is sold, a new ad must be submitted. Call the PA office at 298-5393 once your property has sold. For all other advertisements in the *Border Eagle*, call the Del Rio News Herald at 775-1551.

For Sale/Wanted (circle one and describe):

Housing office coordination:

Name

Home Phone

Duty Phone